

## CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST NEWSLETTER



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

### Message from Regional Administrator **Carmine Gallo**

I wanted to share some recent Eastern Region public outreach efforts that were discussed in the previous quarterly newsletter. Over the last 3 months, we discussed with stakeholders key topics that will be the focus of much of our future public outreach activities: unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones, Next Generation (NextGen) Air Traffic Control System satellite navigation and aircraft noise disturbance.

On Thursday, February 4, we had our briefing with congressional staffers from Pennsylvania and upstate New York. In addition to airport funding and aviation's impact on the economy, we talked about NextGen and UAS, a subject that seems to be of interest to everyone these days. Based on the feedback we received from the attendees, the topics we discussed during the one- hour briefing confirmed that we gave the staffers information they can use to answer constituents' questions.

The other two meetings, one sponsored by my office and another sponsored by a prominent community organization in western Queens, focused on LaGuardia Airport and aircraft noise disturbance.

After receiving a number of phone calls from community leaders and elected officials about helicopter traffic over the Whitestone section of Queens, I decided the best course of action was to invite everyone to a meeting at the regional office on Wednesday, January 13. We sat down with community residents, their elected officials and helicopter industry representatives to discuss the situation when helicopters are directed over LaGuardia Airport as they fly between Manhattan and points northeast of New York City to minimize noise. The meeting was productive, allowing the participants to discuss and hear each other's points of view.

On Friday, February 5, I attended the annual legislative breakfast sponsored by the United Community Civic Association at a hotel near LaGuardia Airport. In spite of a heavy snowstorm amid gusting winds, more than 60 individuals from area community groups, city agencies, the New York City Council and the New York State Legislature made it to the meeting. U.S Representative Joseph Crowley, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, a representative from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and I discussed aviation noise disturbance and mitigation strategies.

My staff and I continue to embrace other opportunities to discuss important aviation issues, such as the meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) that took place in Manhattan on Wednesday, February 10. A colleague asked me to sub for him due to a scheduling conflict. With PowerPoint presentations on NextGen and unmanned aircraft systems as visual aids, I spent 60 minutes talking about NextGen and UAS to a group of 30 engineers, who were there to get an engineering continuing education credit. They earned their credit, and I enjoyed helping a colleague and sharing information on important agency initiatives.

These meetings are examples of how we will continue to engage all of our stakeholders over the upcoming year.

#### **Eastern Region Events Calendar**

April 19: Earth Day Celebration at Regional Office

April 21: AEA Congressional Forum for MD, DE, and Southern NJ

May TBD: NJ Aviation Conference

June 16: MD Aviation Conference

Connect with FAA



**FAA** Eastern Region  
159-30 Rockaway Blvd  
Jamaica, NY 11434-4848

## UAS Updates

**FAA Registered Nearly 300,000 Unmanned Aircraft Owners**

**FAA Unveils Effort to Expand the Safe Integration of Unmanned Aircraft**

**FAA Releases Updated UAS Sighting Reports**

**FAA, DHS, CACI, UMD Perform UAS Detection Work**



Help us prevent aviation safety issues and violations.



Download the B4UFLY app available now.

**KNOW  
BEFORE  
YOU FLY**



## Latest News

Story

**FAA Proposes Rule to Overhaul Safety Certification Standards**

Rule would streamline approval of new technologies

Story

**FAA Releases 2016 to 2036 Aerospace Forecast**

Report finds sustained increase in overall air travel and the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Story

**FAA Urges Airlines to Assess Lithium Battery Risks**

Airlines urged to conduct safety risk assessments to manage the risks associated with transporting lithium batteries as cargo

Story

**DOT rule protects air passengers from e-cigarette protocol**

Rule explicitly bans the use of electronic cigarettes on commercial flights

Story

**FAA Acts to Reduce Bird Fatalities**

Changes to FAA communication tower lighting standards expected to save lives of thousands of birds

Connect with FAA



**Federal Aviation Administration**

800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591